

Leicester, Mass.

Sunday Sept. 27.

1869?

Dear Mr. Webb.

I wrote to you on Friday^{even.} replying to
yrs. (of 21st) rec^d. Thursd. evng, on my return
home. Yesterday^(26th) came yours of 22^d, post-
mark^d. 23^d. - I cannot understand why it sh^d.
have been so long on the road. Of course
you had not rec^d. mine of 21st. Mine of Friday evng.
has, before this can reach you, told you just how we
are placed here, about attending a wedding in the
family, Octo. 15th. ^(by that letter) You have your choice of
summoning me soon, so as to enable me to attend
you eastward, & ~~then~~^{back} get to Dorchester seasonably
for wedding; - or^{for you} to remain in Detroit until after
said wedding has taken place, I in that case to leave
Boston Morn^g. of Oct. 16, & go right thro' to Detroit.

As to ^{my} going to D., or meeting you at
Niagara? If I am not to attend you all through,
it w^d. seem a large part of my service (such as
it might be) would be lost. Who can tell that
you won't need aid between D. & Niagara falls, as
much as afterward?

But, every question about it ought
to be in your hands. It is not for me,
at this distance, to pronounce upon your
best method, or time, of moving. I shall,
of course, approve what you think best to do.
I am ready to stand in the place of your
attendant, if you need to wish me. And
if I go at all, I would (I confess) prefer
to go to you at D.; ^{partly,} ~~also~~ as I said in my Friday
letter, ^{that} I could spend a few hours there well,
having a cousin there, &c. And I would
like to see Capt. Ward, or G. B. Stebbins, - a
few minutes each; & then be ready to start
Eastward with you. -

You w^d. naturally make your
Syracuse visit in coming on eastward. You
could rest ^{there,} ~~enough~~, & perhaps gain the
ability to go to Peterboro', - and Deborah
w^d. make her visit at Mr. White's. That
interval ^{too} would occupy the time of my family's
absence at the aforesaid wedding.

— But how ^{is} it that you are speaking of
such a paltry sum as \$50. or \$100., from the
owners of the Steamboat? Has your Lawyer,
or any one, advised you that you have no
clear claim? Why not let it go to
trial, — if the case be a good one, — and ~~then~~ ^{you}
return to Detroit ^{to attend it?} Or, if unable to return,
a medical certificate could attest that fact,
& the case w^d. be postponed, & your cause
not weakened. Certainly I would not
"Compromise" on any such miserable
sum. That is my opinion.

I expect to be in Leicester all this
week. With sincere sympathy
& regard, Yours
Sam^l. May Jr

The weather is gloomy, but I trust
time will yet prove to you that you are
something else than "a shattered old
fellow".

ms. B. 1.6 v. 10, p. 89